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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 40-46 are allowed. Claims 40-46 are re-numbered as claims 1-7.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/29/09 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Saralino on 7/2/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

40. (Currently amended) An information recording medium comprising:

a first recording area for recording first audio information and first management information for managing the first audio information; and

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a second recording area for recording second audio information and second management information for managing the second audio information, the second audio information having a same content as, and different attribute than, the first audio information,

wherein:

the first management information specifies the first audio information using a group number and a track number,

the second management information specifies the second audio information using an identification number,

the second management information includes link information which indicates that the first audio information and the second audio information are related to each other, and

the link information includes the group number and the track number for specifying the first audio information,

the link information further includes the identification number specifying the second audio information, and

the link information is configured such that the link information can be searched based on the inclusion of the group number and the track number to obtain the second audio information as specified from the identification number of the second audio information indicated by the link information found by the search.

42. (Currently amended) A reproduction apparatus for reproducing at least one of first audio information and second audio information related to the first audio information, which are

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recorded on an information recording medium, wherein the information recording medium includes:

a first recording area for recording first audio information and first management information for managing the first audio information; and

a second recording area for recording second audio information and second management information for managing the second audio information, the second audio information having a same content as, and different attribute than, the first audio information,

wherein

the first management information specifies the first audio information using a group number and a track number,

the second management information specifies the second audio information using an identification number,

the second management information includes link information which indicates that the first audio information and the second audio information are related to each other, and

the link information includes the group number and the track number for specifying the first audio information,

the link information further includes the identification number specifying the second audio information, and

the link information is configured such that the link information can be searched based on the inclusion of the group number and the track number to obtain the second audio information as specified from the identification number of the second audio information indicated by the link information found by the search,

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the reproduction apparatus comprising:

a reading section operable to read at least one of the first audio information, the second audio information, the first management information and the second management information from the information recording medium;

a storage section having, stored therein, at least one of first decryption information for decrypting the first management information and the second decryption information for decrypting the second management information;

a decryption section operable to decrypt at least one of the first management information and the second management information; and

an output section operable to output at least one of the first audio information and the second audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the first audio information and second audio information,

when the first decryption information is stored in the storage section and the first audio information is to be reproduced,

the reading section reads the first management information from the information recording medium,

the decryption section decrypts the first management information based on the first decryption information,

the reading section reads the first audio information from the information recording medium, based on the decryption result of the first management information, and

the output section outputs the first audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the first audio information,

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when the second decryption information is stored in the storage section and the second audio information is to be reproduced,

the reading section reads the second management information from the information recording medium,

the decryption section decrypts the second management information based on the second decryption information,

the reading section reads the second audio information from the information recording medium, based on the decryption result of the second management information, and

the output section outputs the second audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the second audio information,

when the reproduction apparatus receives an instruction to copy the first audio information,

the reading section reads the link information from the information recording medium,

the decryption section decrypts the link information so as to specify the second audio information related to the first audio information,

the reading section reads the specified second audio information from the information recording medium, and

the output section outputs the specified second audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the second audio information.

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45. (Currently amended) A reproduction method for reproducing at least one of first audio information and second audio information related to the first audio information, which are recorded on an information recording medium, wherein the information recording medium includes:

a first recording area for recording first audio information and first management information for managing the first audio information; and

a second recording area for recording second audio information and second management information for managing the second audio information, the second audio information having a same content as, and different attribute than, the first audio information,

wherein

the first management information specifies the first audio information using a group number and a track number,

the second management information specifies the second audio information using an identification number,

the second management information includes link information which indicates that the first audio information and the second audio information are related to each other, and

the link information includes the group number and the track number for specifying the first audio information,

the link information further includes the identification number specifying the second audio information, and

the link information is configured such that the link information can be searched based on the inclusion of the group number and the track number to obtain the second audio information

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as specified from the identification number of the second audio information indicated by the link information found by the search,

the reproduction method comprising the steps of:

(a) reproducing the first audio information using first decryption information for decrypting the first management information;

(b) reproducing the second audio information using second decryption information for decrypting the second management information; and

(c) performing a copy process in response to an instruction to copy the first audio information,

wherein:

the step (a) includes the steps of:

reading the first management information from the information recording medium;

decrypting the first management information based on the first decryption information;

reading the first audio information from the information recording medium, based on the decryption result of the first management information; and

outputting the first audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the first audio information,

the step (b) includes the steps of:

reading the second management information from the information recording medium;

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decrypting the second management information based on the second decryption information;

reading the second audio information from the information recording medium, based on the decryption result of the second management information; and

outputting the second audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the second audio information,

the step (c) includes the steps of:

reading the link information from the information recording medium;

decrypting the link information so as to specify the second audio information related to the first audio information;

reading the specified second audio information from the information recording medium; and

outputting the specified second audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the second audio information.

46. (Currently amended) A program for making a computer execute a reproduction process for reproducing at least one of first audio information and second audio information related to the first audio information, which are recorded on an information recording medium, wherein the information recording medium includes:

a first recording area for recording first audio information and first management information for managing the first audio information; and

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a second recording area for recording second audio information and second management information for managing the second audio information, the second audio information having a same content as, and different attribute than, the first audio information,

wherein

the first management information specifies the first audio information using a group number and a track number,

the second management information specifies the second audio information using an identification number,

the second management information includes link information which indicates that the first audio information and the second audio information are related to each other, and

the link information includes the group number and the track number for specifying the first audio information,

the link information further includes the identification number specifying the second audio information, and

the link information is configured such that the link information can be searched based on the inclusion of the group number and the track number to obtain the second audio information as specified from the identification number of the second audio information indicated by the link information found by the search,

the reproduction process comprising the steps of:

(a) reproducing the first audio information using first decryption information for decrypting the first management information;

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(b) reproducing the second audio information using second decryption information for decrypting the second management information; and

(c) performing a copy process in response to an instruction to copy the first audio information,

wherein:

the step (a) includes the steps of:

reading the first management information from the information recording medium;

decrypting the first management information based on the first decryption information;

reading the first audio information from the information recording medium, based on the decryption result of the first management information; and

outputting the first audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the first audio information,

the step (b) includes the steps of:

reading the second management information from the information recording medium;

decrypting the second management information based on the second decryption information;

reading the second audio information from the information recording medium, based on the decryption result of the second management information; and

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outputting the second audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the second audio information,

the step (c) includes the steps of:

reading the link information from the information recording medium;

decrypting the link information so as to specify the second audio information related to the first audio information;

reading the specified second audio information from the information recording medium; and

outputting the specified second audio information in accordance with the corresponding attribute of the second audio information.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHIN-HON CHEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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